

JUL 24 1963

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Letters to The Times

STATINTL

Dodd Evaluates Nkrumah

Charge That Ghana's Leader Is a Communist Defended by Senator

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

In the interest of fairness, I wish to ask permission to reply to your editorial of July 16 in which you took me to task for my comment on Kwame Nkrumah.

In my statement I said that the evidence and documentation presented to the subcommittee "strongly suggest that Kwame Nkrumah's Ghana has become the first Soviet satellite in Africa." This statement, in the opinion of your editorial, was "unjust to Ghana" and "harmful to the position of the United States in Africa."

"The irresponsibility of the statement," said your editorial, "is obvious from the fact that even Senator Dodd claims to have talked to only one man, a respected Ghanaian opposition leader in exile, Dr. Kofi Busia."

My first comment is that I did not "talk" to Dr. Busia; I took his sworn testimony. But what your editorial failed to mention altogether is that this testimony was supported by 108 documents which convey the views and opinions of many other prominent Ghanaians, including two members of Parliament now imprisoned by Nkrumah and Nkrumah's former Finance Minister, as well as numerous independent observers.

Existence of Evidence

How your editorialist could have failed to mention the existence of this documentation to your readers I fail to understand. The only assumption that makes sense is that he did not examine the evidence before writing his editorial.

I share the belief of The New York Times that grave harm can be done by reckless or exaggerated charges against foreign governments or their leaders. I believe my record will show I have not made any indiscriminate charges of "Communism" against heads of foreign governments.

I have made this charge heretofore against two heads of government whose political identity at the time seemed to mystify many people in government and out, as Nkrumah's does today. These two men were Fidel Castro and Cheddi Jagan. In both cases my evaluations, while they did not enjoy the immediate acceptance of the State Department or The Times, were borne out by events.

On July 14, 1959, Major Pedro Diaz Lanz, former chief of Castro's air force, told the Senate subcommittee that Castro was trying to convert Cuba into a "tool of Russia." Twenty-four hours later Herbert L. Matthews of The New York Times wrote from Havana: "This is not a Communist revolution in any sense of the word and there are no Communists in positions of control. . . . The accusations of Major Pedro Diaz Lanz before the Senate Internal Security subcommittee yesterday are rejected by virtually all Cubans. . . . The only power worth considering in Cuba today is in the hands of Premier Castro, who is not only not Communist but decidedly anti-Communist."

Warning on Jagan

On July 17, 1961, in a speech in the Senate, I warned that the election of Dr. Cheddi Jagan in British Guiana might give us another Communist-dominated government in the Americas. On Aug. 23 The New York Times commented editorially: "Dr. Jagan has been labeled by some high American officials and some Senators as a Communist, or the equivalent of one. If this were to prove the official U.S. Government attitude, Dr. Jagan and his Government would certainly be in the Communist camp alongside of Cuba very soon."

I rest my case with the statement that I do not think there is anyone in the United States Government or anyone in The New York Times who today has any doubts that both Fidel Castro and Cheddi Jagan are confirmed Communists.

Your editorial misleadingly stated that the only evidence I adduced to prove my case against Nkrumah was that he had made a trip behind the Iron Curtain. Let me present only a few of the facts that led me to my evaluation of Kwame Nkrumah's Ghana.

Premier Nkrumah has himself written that he long ago decided that the philosophy of Marx and Lenin was capable of solving his problems.

Nkrumah since he came to power has replaced the moderates in his entourage with known pro-Communists and extremists. He has consistently supported the Soviet Union and Cuba in the U.N.

In 1962 the Kremlin awarded Nkrumah the Lenin "peace" prize, whereupon his own newspaper acclaimed him the "Lenin of Africa."

Ghana under Nkrumah is the focal

point for the subversion of Africa as Cuba is the focal point for the subversion of the Americas. It is widely believed in Africa, for example, that the assassination of Premier Olympo of Togo was master-minded from Ghana.

Like Castro's Cuba, it carries on a propaganda campaign that would tax the resources of a major country. It trains natives of other countries in the arts of infiltration, sabotage, terror, and guerrilla warfare. It exports arms by clandestine means to the opposition terrorist groups in other countries which it has fostered and today supports.

To those who have made a careful study of Communist history, I believe that the pattern of Kwame Nkrumah is as clear as the patterns established by Fidel Castro and Cheddi Jagan in their early days.

THOMAS J. DODD

United States Senator from Connecticut.

Washington, July 17, 1963.